

## **Data Description for Commercial Landings**

**General:** The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries generated these data by means of dockside interviews in Breton Sound beginning in May 1988 and ending in December 1995.

### **Data Column Descriptions:**

*Date:* mm/dd/yyyy

*Taxa:* Identifies the species of fish/shellfish by the common (not the scientific) name.

*Number of Pounds:* Total weight of catch per boat. This totals the catch, for the given species (taxa). Applies to shrimp, crabs, and to fin fish. (Oysters reported by the sack.)

*Shrimp Count:* Used to describe shrimp size. Approximate number of shrimp per pound, expressed as a range (e.g., “50-60” means fifty to sixty shrimp per pound).

*Price/pound:* Dockside price of catch, in dollars per pound. Does not include oyster prices. Wide variations in striped mullet prices on the same day reflect roe quantities.

*Price/sack:* Oysters only. Dockside price in dollars per sack.

*Grid:* Map 200211404.pdf shows a grid superimposed on Breton Sound and vicinity. The grid number identifies the sector where the commercial fishers reported having harvested their catch. Some entries report catches from outside the grid. A record of zero (0) indicates any location west of the Mississippi River, and “999” indicates locations east of the river and out beyond the extent of the grid. In 1994, gizzard shad were caught using dip nets in the Caernarvon diversion outfall channel. This location was reported as “grid=1” even though it is just outside (NW) of grid sector 1. One catch from Chandleur Sound was recorded as “grid=214”. Thousands of entries of “grid=201” reference a location in North Lake Borgne. Two entries of “grid=192” reference Bay Boudreau, a location east of Lake Borgne.

*Gear, Gear Size, Number of Gear:* These identify the type, dimensions, and number of fishing equipment. “By hand” refers to hand collection of oysters. In the case of trawl nets, gear size is the net length. Entries of “gear size=999” refer to a 1000-foot gill net. Entries of “gear size=5MI” and “gear size=25M” refer to long line (hook and line) dimensions of five and 25 miles, respectively.

*Landing Dock, Selling Dock:* In most cases, these are the same locations.

*Boat Size:* Boat length in feet. One entry equal to zero (0) resulted from an interview with an individual fishing from the shore.

*Effort:* Reports the number of days fishing prior to interview.